Index to Advertisements.



Business Notices.

"ALDERNEY BRAND" CONDENSED MILE. Bry always DESKS AND OFFICE FURNITURE
T. G. Sallew.
111 Fullon st. PILES. PILES. PILES.

Cared without knife, powder or salve. No charge until cured. Write for reference. To-DAY we will give a sample box of our de-

TRIBUNE TERMS TO MAIL SUBSCRIBERS. Postage free in the United States. 1 Year. 6 Months, 8 Months. Es mit by Postal Note, Money Order, or Registered Letter, By Postal Note, the remitter will please write on the Note THE THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE.

BRANCH OFFICES OF THE TRIBUNE. BRANCH OFFICES OF THE TRUBUND.

STIANMENT OF THE TRUBUND, and others
what delivery of the daily paper, will be received at the
mist delivery of the daily paper, will be received at the
mist delivery of the 18 Broadway, 9 a. m. to 3 p. m.
10 Thirdwe, near Forty-seventh-st., 10 a. m. to 3 p. m.
10 Thirdwe, near Forty-seventh-st., 10 a. m. to 3 p. m.
10 East One-hundred and thempt with the 3 p. m.
10 East One-hundred and thempt with the 3 th 10 p. m.
18 Quare, No. 92 East Fourteenth-st., 10 a.m to 5 p. m.

M wo Dork Daily Tribune.

FOUR DED BY HORACE GREELEY.

N EW-YORK, FRIDAY, JAN. 18.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Foreigh N.-The Chinese Munister to France has left that a puntry in view of the invasion of Tonquin. == : The Canadian Parliament opened with a speech fr om the throne by the Governor General. Lord Laned owne. The garrison in Sennaar has been out off by the insu gents in the Soudae .== A new ship canal is proposed in Egypt. ==== An Ambassador from Abysania has arrived in Europe.

Conquess.-In the Senate yesterday a memorial was reserved from the American Public Health Association, relating to the public health; a memoria was received from ex-Senator Kellogg denying statements relative to his motives in the matter of the transfer of the Texas Pacific Railroad land grant; several temperance petitions were pre-sented; a bill was introduced to secure reasonable rates of transportation; the Mexican Reciprocity treaty was further considered. —— In the House a bill was introduced pensioning the only surviving grandchild of Thomas Jefferson; the Senate bill appropriating \$1,000,000 for Mississippi River improvement was passed; a bill was passed making all public roads and highways post roads.

Domestic.-Medical experts testified yesterday that James Nutt yielded to emotional insanity in shooting Dukes. - Senator-elect Payne, of Ohio, gave a supper to the Legislature and State officers A large number of Senators and Assembly men at A bany expressed their opmions on the tariff and Presidential candidates. Rich phosphatic rock has been discovered in South Carolina. - Chicago and Detroit lumbermen are buying lands in the Yazoo delta. = = There was a small fire in the Trenton State Honse. - A Republican was elected to succeed Governor Robinson in the Twelfth Massa chusetts District. - The Howe Prison Labor Commission bill and the bill reducing fees for pilotage in New-York passed the Assembly, = The bill to vest the power of appointing the heads of the departments in the City of New-York in the Mayor was postponed by the legislative com-

CITY AND SUBURBAN.-The funeral of Charles Delmonico took place yesterday. - Throng a relations between the Lackawanna and the pool roads were restored. - Vice-President Harris, of the Erie, was elected president of the Nor-hern Pacific Railroad. The steamship Germanic was reported to have broken her shaft and to be returning to Liverpool under sail. - The trustees o the Madison Avenue Congregational Church signed a letter expressing confidence in Dr. Newman. The Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen ate its ninety-night annual dinner. - A new elevated railroad project was discussed before the Rapid Transit Commissioners. - A boy was shot and killed in Newark. - The Typothetm had a dinner at the Metropolitan Hotel. - Some excitement was caused by a fire in the Guaranty and In demnity Building. - Gold value of the legaltender silver dollar (41212 grains), 85.62 cents. Stocks were moderately active, and, after an early depression, recovered and closed excited and

THE WEATHER .- TRIBUNE local observations indicate warmer and fair or clear weather. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 28°; lowest, 9°; average,

The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railway has so far been brought to terms by the discipline of Commissioner Fink as to agree to submit the question of percentages to arbitration. The public will congratulate itself on the prespect of escaping a ruinous war of rates which this arrangement opens up. To be sure, the plan may fail; but when railway managers get to the point of arbitration, peace of some sort is likely to follow.

The infliction of a fine of \$500 upon Captain Slocum of the ship Northern Light can hardly fail to have a wholesome influence upon other sea-captains of brutal tendencies. It will remind them that poor Jack is not yet entirely defenceless. This man cruelly imprisoned one of his subordinates for a long time in a box too small to stand up or lie down in. And yet Slocum is captain of one of the finest of American ships, and is regarded as a particularly humane officer! It is not pleasant to imagine what practices more inhuman commanders probably often resort to in order to maintain discipline.

There is a commendable disposition on the part of the Government to make adequate and early preparations to rescue Lieutenant Greely. The President has sent to Congress the recommendations of the Board of Officers of the Army and Navy in regard to the matter. These are in effect that two stout steam whalers properly equipped should be started North by May 1; but that a smaller vessel shall set out even at an earlier date, in the hope that by taking the greatest risks relief may be afforded to the

expedition shall be entirely in control of the Navy Department.

John Eagan, ex-Speaker of the New-Jersey Assembly, was sentenced yesterday to imprisonment at hard labor for a month and to pay a fine of \$500 for the crime of bribery. There seems to be no doubt of this man's guilt, and it is impossible not to feel satisfaction that substantial justice has been meted out to him; but, nevertheless, from many points of view the spectacle in the court at Newark was a painful one to every honest American citizen. Men who are willing to resort to bribery and corruption will always make up a considerable element in every political party; but it is humiliating to think that any one of their number has ever had influence enough to secure so honorable a place as the Speakership of the New-Jersey Assembly.

The election of Mr. Robert Harris as president of the Northern Pacific, and his acceptance, promise a brighter future for that great railroad. The long experience of Mr. Harris, not only with Eastern roads, but with one of the greatest railroads of the West, will give him especial advantages in the task of organizing and managing the traffic of a transcontinental highway, and, although the undertaking is one of great magnitude and difficulty. particularly in view of the financial position to which the Northern Pacific has been brought during the arduous efforts for its completion, the friends of the company have reason to believe that Mr. Harris's proved ability will secure for it the best results that are attainable.

Republican voters whose names are enrolled reminded of their duty. Primaries will be held at certain hours to-day and this evening in each district for the purpose of electing delegates to the County Committee, members of the Assembly District Committees and Enrolling Officers. If the re-oganization of the party in this city is to be of value or to have significance, every man who put his name on the lists last November should turn out to-day and vote for such officers as meet his approval. The election places will be found in another column WARE INSTOC-1.329 Fat. (Losnox-2d Redforbat, Strand, of this paper, and the hours during which they will remain open are also printed. No enrolled Republican should allow anything to keep him from the polls. Let every one turn out, if only to preserve the right to grumble hereafter if the party machinery is not run to suit him. privilege.

The results of a canvass which THE TRIB-UNE's correspondent at Albany has made of the Senators and Assemblymen in regard to the National nominations for next year are given on another page of this impression. The opinions expressed are remarkable for what they don't contain rather than for what they do. The Republicans have no decided personal choice for a candidate, and so far as their observation goes their constituents have no particular preferences either. All they want is the best man. Among the Democrati Senators and Assemblymen Mr. Tilden is first favorite, and Mr. Cleveland second, while Mr. Hewitt, Mr. McDonald and several others are scattering." In other words, so far as candidates are concerned there is not much choiceand what there is, is mixed. But touching Free Trade and Protection it is different. The Republican legislators are strongly in favor of the present policy of the Government. The Democrats try to dodge the issue, of course, and are Free Tra ders with Protection tendencies or Protectionists with Free Trade tendencies. They were apparently happiest when they were able to express an opinion that didn't mean

THE DEMOCRATIC PLAN. The reasoning of the Carlisle-Morrison Demoof 25 per cent in duties. The bill afterward passed, it appears from an official statement for the quarter ending September 30, actually reduced duties less than 5 per cent. Therefore we can safely cut down duties 20 per

cent. And, inasmuch as blunders of detail would politically damage us, by disclosing the incapacity of the Democratic party for practical legislation, let us make a general reduction of 20 per cent of duties now in force, instead of trying to adjust to the needs of different industries new duties which shall yield 20 per cent less than the present revenue." To such reasoning THE TRIBUNE replies, and believes that the Republican party with substantial unanimity will reply:

I. The Pariff Commission was intended to be and was a non-partisan body; it made no at-

tempt to represent a party. II. That Commission recommended certain reductions of duties which, taken as a whole, it believed would be safe. It did not recommend any conceivable reduction that might amount in the aggregate to 25 per cent. Nor was it so stupid as to propose a horizontal reduction. Thus, if Congress had taken off all duties on wool and woollen manufactures, \$32,320,893, and on iron and steel, and manufactures thereof, tin and tin plates, \$21,665,556, it would have removed about 25 per cent of all duties, but would have brought ruin to great industries, and the Commission recommended no such act of folly. Or, had Congress taken off one-quarter of all duties then levied on everything, it would have cut down the duties on spirits about \$2,185,000, which would have been foolish; on silk about \$4,913,000, which would perhaps have been harmless; and on iron and steel manufactures about \$4,147,000, which would have prostrated a great industry. Lunacy of that sort was left for a Democratic Congress. III. The reduction of duties by means of the

new tariff was actually much more than 5 per cent on the average. The recent report shows that the duty collected on dutiable merchandise for the first quarter of the current fiscal year was 42 per cent of its value, against 44.2 per cent collected in the same quarter of 1882 upon goods then dutiable, but does not show the value of imports then subject to duty and now in the free list. Moreover, the change in quality of articles imported has been important. For instance, under the old tariff, the duty was exactly the same on the poorest and cheapest sugar "not above No. 7 Dutch Standard in color" as upon the best and most valuable, so that the ratio of duty on the cheaper sugars was from 70 to 90 per cent, and they were hardly imported. Now the duty is graduated according to saccharine strength and real value, and does not amount to 60 per cent on any class of sugar that is considerably imported, and consequently the cheaper grades are brought in more largely than before. Thus the average cost of brown sugar imported in the very month after the new duty went into effect dropped to 3.8 cents. against 4.6 cents for the same month of the previous year. Had the same kind of sugar been taxed at the old rate, the duty would have been

much higher. IV. To cut down all duties 20 per cent would work the grossest injustice to those industries Lady Franklin Bay party earlier than the main | which have been obliged already to meet the

wise point in the recommendations is that the tariff. For instance, the duty on clothing wool the benefits of the Reform Bill, whether a was reduced about 20 per cent, the duty on redistribution of seats may not be deferred, and combing wool about 36 per cent, and the duty on carpet wool only about 9 per cent; what of the London and County Government bills justice would there be in making a new reduction of 25 per cent on each? The duty on hold upon public opinion by waiting for it to several important forms of iron was so changed last year as to shut up a large proportion of the mills engaged in making them, while the duty on other forms is still so high that, even after a further reduction, it would be virtually almost prohibitory. What sense would there be in cutting down both classes in the same ratio?

V. Nothing could more plainly reveal the incapacity of the Demecratic party for the government of this great Nation than such a piliful confession that it could not adjust a tariff to the necessities of different industries. Under the old tariff, the imports of thirteen classes yielded nearly seven-eighths of the whole revenue from customs duties in 1883, but the rate varied from nearly 73 per cent on tobacco and 6912 per cent on spirits and wines, to 37.8 per cent on cotton manufatures, 37.6 per cent on iron, steel and tin plates, 37.5 per cent on chemicals, 33 per cent on flax manufactures, and 30 per cent on leather manufactures. Under the new tariff, the rates on tobacco, spirits and silks have been retained, while there has been a reduction in metals, woollens, cottons, chemicals and other articles of necessity. Would it not be a most shameful exhibition of incompetence and recklessness to cut down in like proportion the duties that have been and those that have not been recently reduced, the duties on pure luxuries and on the necessaries of life? The Republicans, at all events, have no occasion to stultify themselves in that fashion, but will most earnestly protest against and in the Assembly District Associations are again resist a measure so irrational, unjust and pernicious.

MAYOR EDSON'S REPLY.

Three weeks ago a letter was sent to the Mayor signed by the president of the Chemical Bank, by J. & W. Seligman & Co., Kountze Brothers, Charles Lanier, Wheeler H. Peckham, Austin Corbin, Ammidown & Smith, and other citizens and firms of equal prominence, asking him to request the Commissioner of Public Works to cease giving "special orders," as they are called, to Maurice B. Flynn, Richard A. Cunningham and others, and to advertise for proposals for the work and materials supplied on these orders. Yesterday the Mayor sent his reply, declining to accede to this request. He says that he has become convinced Stay at home and you lose this precious that the public interests could be better served in many cases by making purchases and doing work as a private corporation or individual would do the same in similar circumstances. Very good. If Mr. Thompson had managed his department as a private person would manage his business, there would be no ground for complaint. But do private individuals or private corporations ever let out work on unbalanced bids? Do private persons or corporations cram their pay-rolls with a crowd of worthless political heclers fit for no service but canvassing grog-shops? Do they run their business for the benefit of a political faction? Do they fill their offices with relatives and hangers-on without regard to fitness? Do they buy their supplies from a few personal favorites without regard to the lower prices for which they could secure better goods elsewhere? Do they have such inspectors and such a system of inspection that they are not sure of getting the full quantities of work or supplies that they pay All these things and more has Mr. Thompson

done. The short, swift and well-deserved end of any private business conducted as he manages public business would be ruin. What shall be the end of a municipal department managed, or rather mismanaged, in this way? The whispers that may be heard in political Thompson may be due to a desire for the Tariff Commission recommended a reduction chair may be wholly false and slanderous. Yet the tone of the Mayor's Message and of this letter in reply to the appeal of leading citizens | been thrown into the House of Representatives. easily gives rise to such suspicions. But is it not possible that Mr. Thompson's support may be the worst injury that any candidate can suffer in the coming campaign?

WORK BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Gladstone has often been taunted with his loquacity. When he advocated the cloture | deprive the House of the power to defeat an his critics accused him of abridging rights of discussion which he himself had systematically abused during a long and garralous career, When he lamented at the close of the last let us have it. But at any rate, the question session of Parliament "the immeasurable and insatiable appetite which appears to be seizing us all for boundless talk," the members in Opposition, who had persisted in wasting one fortnight in debating the address to the Queen and another in tedious chatter over the Affirmation Bill, cheered derisively. It is people to realize what enormous loss might probably true that Mr. Gladstone has appeared oftener in public and spoken at greater length on questions of the day than any other Englishman of his generation. At the same time, he is not ignorant of the advantages of silence. His circular to the Liberal members of the House of Commons, referring vaguely to the important legislative proposals about to be submitted to them, will remind them that he has had less to say during the parliamentary recess than any of his colleagues and rivals. All the other prominent members of the House have paid their addresses to their constituencies, but I'e has grimly written to the Midlothian Committee: "I have been, I know, as scanty in demonstration since the election of 1880 as I was abundant before it." Sir Stafford Northcote has made an exeursion to Uister and has spoken repeatedly in England; Lord Salisbury has been active with tongue and pen; and Lord Hartington, Mr. Chamberlain, Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Forster have discussed the nature and order of the measures soon to be named in the Queen's Speech. Mr. Gladstone has only made a non-committal speech at Guildhall and discoursed on the auties of Crown Derby at Hawarden Castle. It is probable that the Premier is less inclined.

at present, to lead than he is to follow public opinion, and has purposely refrained from giving utterance to personal views which would influence his associates prematurely. The reform of the franchise is one of the great measures to which he stands committed in his Midlothian election addresses. His reminiscences of public life carry him back to 1832, when with callow conservatism and prejudice he was inveighing against the tendencies of the great Reform Bill. It would be only natural for him to wish to round off his career by securing the passage of a new Reform Bill, as a crowning act of progressive Liberalism; and this desire would be stimulated by the reflection that Mr. Disraeli succeeded in "dishing' the Whigs in 1867 by appropriating their projected reforms. But strong as his own preferences undoubtedly are, the Premier would only have weakened his position in the Cabinet and before the country by disclosing his intentions during the long recess. His colleagues will be ready to accept his counsel as final when at last he breaks silence, and

expedition can possibly do it. An essentially largest reductions made by the recent change of determines whether Ireland shall be included in whether it may not be practicable to dispose during the session. He will strengthen his declare itself before he essays to shape and strongly organized in its support.

It now seems probable that the approaching session will be one of unwonted legislative activity. The equalization of borough and county franchise can be effected by a short measure, which ought to require very little time in Committee of the Whole House after it has once passed the second reading. The experiment of referring complex measures to Grand Committees succeeded so well at the last session that it will be natural to expect a further development of this method of procedure this year. With these improved facilities for dispatching legislation, it may not be unreasonable to look for the passage of the London and County Government bills as well as the extension of suffrage.

THE ELECTORAL COUNT BILL. The failure of the bill for regulating the Electoral Count to reach a vote in the last House of Representatives, after it had passed the Senate, might be attributed to a belief on the part of the Democratic majority that they had possibly more to gain by letting the danger of disorder alone than by removing it. We have always believed in the constitutional right of the President of the Senate to count the electoral votes; but that claim was waived in faction seems to have flattered itself into the conviction, ever since, that hereafter it has only to threaten and the Republicans will yield everything for the sake of peace. But the conservative and patriotic men on the Democratic side of the House are probably not of that way of thinking. They must see that the peril, in case of another dispute over the returns, with no previous arrangement for deciding it, would be exceedingly grave. We hope, therefore, for the bill which has just passed

the other branch of Congress, We must not forget that disputed returns ar always among the probabilities of a close election. The Hayes and Tilden contest was not merely about the votes of Louisiana and Florida, where there were honest differences of actual vote was never for a moment doubtful. Some of the fiercest objections of the House were based upon the most trivial technicalities, and some upon flagrant frauds. There is not much question now as to the character of the Cronia returns from Oregon; there ought to be none as to the frivolous objections made by Senator Barnum, Representatives Cox, Holman, Pernando Wood and others to the acceptance of the only regular and valid returns from South Carolina-objections based upon no better ground than the pretext that South Carolina had not at any time in 1876 a constitutional republican form of government, and that it voted under Federal "duress." A supplementary objection was made to the Florida returns because one of the Hayes electors had once been a United States Shipping Commissioner, an office which he resigned a month before the Presidential election. A supplementary objection was made to the South Carolina returns on the ground of a slight verbal informality, not in the returns, but in the indorsement on the back of the envelope which contained them. Objections were made to the votes of Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wis consin, in each case upon frivolous technicalities, such as can be raised at any time by circles that the Mayor's tenderness for Mr. those who will search for them. If the Democratic members had carried their point with crats is substantially this: "A Republican latter's support for another term in the Mayor's respect to any one of these challenged votesand they voted solidly to sustain every object tion-the choice of a President would have

It is plain that the country cannot afford to run any such risk. The example of framing frivolous objections having been established in 1876-'77, is sure to be followed whenever a factious majority of the House may see an opportunity to profit by it. Mr. Hoar's bill, in it is impracticable to raise the level of wretchedness settling a rule for counting the votes, does not election, but at least it provides that whatever that body may do shall be done decently and by law. If a better plan can be devised, ought to be settled promptly.

RISES FROM FIRE. The fire in Exchange Court yesterday afternoon, though it was soon brought under control and did but moderate damage, compelled result to individuals and corporations from a single destructive fire in that part of the city. With more than a hundred offices in each of many buildings that are very much the reverse of fire-proof, and with securities in each office often exceeding in value a great store and all its stock of goods, it is the habit of dealers to secure for their valuables the protection of safe deposit vaults during the night. But during the hours of active business, the brokers and capitalists are obliged to have many of their securities within reach, and the safes used in the offices would not always resist the intense heat of a great fire, even if clerks could always be expected, in a time of panic, to stow away the valuables safely before trying to save their own lives. It would not be impossible that property worth many millions should be swept away in an hour by a conflagration in that part of the city, and the consequent disturbance to the business of banks and other corporations might be very great.

There is especial reason for congratulation that the fire of yesterday did not get beyond the | fully. speedy control of the firemen, as it might have done had the day been very windy or very cold, or the supply of water as scanty as it sometimes

ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION FROM THE "CODE." There is no end to the eccentricities of sequence resulting from the operations of the "code of honor." The latest instance occurred in Algeria, and is worth relating. A French gentleman, M. Arsonneau, accused an officer, Captain Rieux, of having wronged him. In vain the captain protested his innocence. Nothing would satisfy the jeatous husband but a duel. So averse was the officer to the proposition that, though his courage on the field had been repeatedly proved, his comrades began to anspect him of cowardice, and he was at last put under arrest because he refused to fight. Then he yielded, and the duel was arranged. The parties fought with pistols, at twenty-five paces, and at the first discharge the challenger, M. Arsonneau, was shot through the heart. Thereupon an inquiry was held, and the captain was duly and promptly

acquitted. The question of course is, where in this case does the satisfaction come in ? The challenging party, who believed that he had been injured by the challenged, is killed. That is the end of his endeavor to obtain "satisfaction." And in what position does this result leave the case at issue? Is it to be concluded tint, because Captain Rieux proved trimself

a better marksman than his antagonist, therefore the latter was wrong in his suspicions? Or is the -reputation of the suspected wife cleared of all taint by the death of her husband? The evidental value of a pistol-shot does not seem to be easily ascertained. It is indeed clear that the facts, whatever they may be, are unaffected by the ontcome of the duel. guilt or innocence of the wife could neither be esdirect it. The Franchise Bill will be a popular | tablished nor disproved by an encounter the issues reform with the sentiment of the constituencies of which depended wholy upon irrelevant conditions. The ordeals which were enforced in the Middle Ages, the hot ploughshare, the boiling oil, were in all respects as trustworthy as the duello. The survival of the ordeal by combat, no matter under what pretended sanctions of chivalry and honor, is in sober fact a survival from barbarism, and it is an annehronism for which in this age no possible justification can be found.

Where the code is sanctioned by authority, as in some Continental armies, it is plain that the primary object of such a policy is the maintenance among soldiers of a due ferocity, which is disguised under the emphemistic phrase esprit de corps. But duelling is alike brutal and stupid, however it is carried on, and the slow extinction of so manufestly irrational and useless a custom only seems to show y what gradual and painful processes civilization advances, and how difficult it is to "let the ape and tiger die," and to substitute standards of action based upon purely intellectual theories of morals.

Here's The Albany Times devoting three solid olumns to a sketch of R. P. Flower and here's The Whitehall Times saying in a leader that Flower would be a good man for President. Perhaps it would be well to send marked copies of these papers to Governor Cleveland.

One cannot consider it strange that Mr. Jordan, treasurer of the Oatario and Western, was sorely ried and greatly angered by the course of recent 1877 for the sake of peace, and a Domocratic events. The management, whether with good reason or no reason, had certainly treated him in a very unusual fashion, not merely in causing his subord: nates to lock him out of the safe of which he was official custodian, but in many other ways and for a long time. It has been no secret that there was a bitterly autagonistic feeling between the parties in the Ontario and Western and its associate companies, and the public is not yet in position to judge which of the parties is in the right. In business natters, however, anger is rarely helpful, ever where it is wholly natural and justifiable, and Gen. Winslow succeeded in producing a favorable impres the Senate, a prompt and frank consideration in sion at the Ontario and Western meeting, even upon some who had been opposed to him, by his calmness and his ready answers to questions showered upon him. It was hardly possible for him to deny that the management had made mistakes. His own losses and those of his friends bore witness to that fact, But the offer to disclose every feature and item in what is perhaps the most tangled skein ever known opinion regarding the popular will, but it in corporate management did cause some surprise extended to the returns from States where the and made his friends hopeful that the investigation tion will not result in casting dishonor upon him.

> The Buffelo Courier is earnestly discussing the tariff, these days. In so doing it renders itself liable to be read out of the New-York State branch of the Democratic party. For the last Democratic State Convention in declining to place any kind of a tariff plank in its platform committed its members to unremitting silence on that great issue.

The friends of Mr. Perry, the Democratic Superntendent of the Capitol at Albany, endeavor to excuse his expenditure of \$270,000 in excess of the appropriation by explaining that he was auxious "to roof in the west end of the building. It would be well for Mr. Perry at the earliest possible mement to roof in his mind with the knowledge that the people's money is not to be spent without due authority. By the way, the time has arrived for a piece of the ceiling of the Assembly chamber so to conduct itself as to give the law-makers upon whose desk it lands an increased appreciation of the uncertainty of life.

The popular impression has come to be that decription is not "beggared" half as often as emoional writers would have us believe it is. Nevertheless, there can be little doubt that the scene following the presentation of the resolution proposing to investigate Mr. Payne's campaign methods stances. The movement in behalf of the outcast poor of

London has apparently culminated in an official circular to the vestries and district boards, reminding upon them to exercise greater vigilance and less discretion in dealing with unhealthy dwellings, At an early period of this English agitation we con trasted the inefficiency of London sanitary inspec tions with the systematic efforts made by the New-York sanitary corps and building inspectors to improve the habitations of the poor. The population of the English metropolis increases so rapidly that by means of artificial clearances effected under the ostly Artisaus' Dwellings Act, or by philanthropic chemes such as the Penbody houses. The misery entruns in growth special measures of relief. A general enforcement of sanitary regulations throughout London at the expense of property-owners is the only practicable means of coping with the evils which are poisoning the bodies and corrupting the ouls of the lower classes.

A correspondent of The Boston Post wants the oming Democratic National Convention to take the United States Constitution for its platform. Yes, that would be one way of escaping the necessity of taking sides on the tariff issue. But there is no chance of such a platform being adopted by such a convention. The Constitution contains allusions to treason and the rebel debt which are the money. well calculated to hurt the feelings of sensitive outhern delegates.

Barney Biglin should try to have Mr. George ones made an Inspector to-day, at the primary in the Eighteenth District. That would for once satisfy The Times, and soothe its alarms.

The stationers are urging people to return to the use of sealing-wax instead of the ordinary gam, for envelopes. The obvious objection is that it takes too much time for a busy people like the Americans to use wax. But those engineering the been might enforce their arguments among fashionable folks who "dearly love a lord," by iting the example of the Duke of We lington, wno, during the most doubtful hours of the struggle at Waterloo, refused the use of an ordinary envelope which one of his aides offered him with which to enclose an order the Duke had written to one of his commanders. "Would you have me guilty of sending my spittle to a gentleman?" he asked reproach-

PERSONAL.

Miss Bertha Von Hillern has been commissioned by the Pennsylvania Colonization Society to paint for it a large portrait of Judge Bushred Washington, its first president. Ex-Senator Thurman's maladies are neuralgia

and rheumatism, by which he is closely confined to the house. His body is wrenched with pain with every change in the weather. But it was his soul that was wrenched with Payne by the change in the Ohio Senatorship.

David Dudley Field may often be seen in lower Broadway on his way to his office in the Boreel Building, where he receives numerous callers besides attending to an extensive legal practice. Because of his commanding appearance in contrast with the slim figure of Cyrus W. Field he is sometimes called the latter's "big brother".

The well-known Philadelphia philanthropist, Mr. James J. Barelay, was ninety years of age last Tuesday. His numerous friends tendered him a reception in the rooms of the House of Refuge, of the Board of Managers of which he is president. The universal esteem in which he is held was well exuniversal esteem in which he is held was well expressed by one of the speakers, who said: "Since the death of the elder Horace Einney, in 1876, Mr. Barclay has been the senior member of the Philadelphia bar, and as such, and because we know bisjust claims, is held in our highest esteem. Because his life has been that for which his co-laborers have here homored him, we share it, for he stands foremost in our body. If he has not done more than he

has at the bar, it is because God gave him so large a heart in sympathy with the sufferings of his fellow-heings. He loved better to work for them for noth-ing than to win fame and wealth at the bar. He has won the certainty of a higher reward."

Of Mr. Hamilton Mabie's promotion on the staff. of The Christian Union, and the generous tribute paid to him by Dr. Abbott, a Congregationalist correspondent writes that Mr. Mabie, as is his wont, 'made up" the New Year's number put it in the printer's hands, took the cars for Greenwich, and, another week's work off his mind, slept the sleep of the just. But Dr. Abbott had " seen " the printers, proof-readers and all concerned, and made them partners in his little game. When the newly propartners in his little game. When the newly promoted editor the next morning reached his chair in Lafayette-place, and took up the first copy of The Union, instead of his opening page, the proof of which he had carefully read the evening before, Dr. Abbott's "Announcement" met his eyes—his very first intimation that the change of position had been thought of. Very likely his earliest cailer saw in the new co-editor's eyes symptoms of the prevailing cold brought out by the raw morning air.

"I remember Cardinal McCloskey when he was in Albany," said the Kev. C. A. Walworth, of St. Mary's Church in that city, the other day. "He was one of the plainest men I ever knew. He lived very simply, occupying a single room in his large house on the ground floor, with just a small room off in which he slept, and which could scarcely hold a bed. He used to drive a plain horse, and ride in a very plain carriage. 'Old Dolly,' the mare, had quite a reputation. She was gentle and kind, had quite a reputation. She was gentle and kind, had no fire in her, and was easy-going. She was a fine animal, though, not with standing she was plain. Cardinal McCloskey was also a plain liver, enting the plainest of food. His castle was at No. 14 Lodge-st., a rickety tumble down affair, but still, he thought, good enough for him. In the front was a crack in which one could shove his hand. This extended from top to bottom. The carpenter who tore down the old castle said that I had prevented the house falling by having him rare it. Cardinal the house failing by having him raze it. Cardinal McCloskey was exceedingly unostentations, and was pleased with everybody and everything, when it was done for the best. To show how very plain lie was you may consider that he not only had all of the house at his disposal, of which he occupied the single room, but had been frequently urged to take other and better houses in the vicinity.

TALKS ABOUT TOWN.

CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT "PRINCESS IDA." Augustus Pitou, Manager: "The dresses, scenic models, cores and librettes of 'Princess Ida' arrived by the Scythia on Tuesday, and are now in Boston. On February II the opera will be produced at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, 'Confusion' being brought on after Mrs. Leingtry's engage ment is ended. Yes, I have keard that Stoddard, of Philaelphia, has published the words and plane score, but have not yet seen a copy. It will, however, not prejudice our rights of production; at least, I believe not. It is curious, by the way, to see how doctors disagree. The Boston Herald had a two-column cable enlogizing the play, and stating that it was an immense success. A New-York paper of similar name devoted some space to an account of its utter faffure. My private dispatches confirm the former; I wonder where the latter was written. '

THE CONTROL OF THE ERIE CANAL. L. J. N. Stark, ex-president of the Produce Exchange.— What do I think of Congressian Wemple's bill presented on Tuesday that Coogress appropriate \$1,000,000 annually for ten years to improve the Eric Canal, and mainain it free to the commerce of the United States ! Ithink it is absurd. A similar bill was offered in Cougress about fifteen years ago by a Representative from Buffalo, and it killed him politically. He served only one term. The New-York people are sensitive and Jealous about their canals. In its poverty this State completed the Eric Canal and while it has benefited the entire country, the principal benefit has been to the people of the State. New-York will never consent to the canal passing under the control of the Federal Government.

OUR TRADE WITH CUBA.

A. Ward, Cuban Mail Line.-The discriminations nder which we suffer in trading with Cuba direct arise retaliates for the heavy duty we lay on cigars, tobacco, sugar, etc. It also seeks to build up its merchant marine by favoring the admission at lower rates of all articles of commerce carried in Spanish ships than the same when carried in foreign vessels. This amounts to a considerable difference. Mr. Poey, our manager, can tell you exactly. The discrimination is so great that it is actually cheaper to ship flour, for instance, from New-York to Spain and thence by Spanish vessels to Cuba than to send the same cargo direct from here to Havana in our American built and registered ships. You can even ship a cargo to Liverpool and thence re-ship it to Cuba under the same conditions, for there is a line of Spanish vessels from Liverpool to Havana. It blaced description in very straitened circum- is generally understood that some sort of negotiationsnot for a treaty, but for some modifications of existing ariffs-are proceeding at Madrid which may shortly re eve our commerce with Cuba direct to some extent, These changes are not concluded, but Minister Foster is said to be urging them. . . . It is true we conteme them of the powers which they possess, and calling plate the building of three more steamers for our Cuban heard. Nor is it settled that Lieutenant Gorringe instead of John Roach is to build them. That is premature.

A STRAIGHT REPUBLICAN.

Justice Jacob Patterson (introducing Alderman ——).—
The Alderman is like myself; he believes in holding out for a straight out-and-out Republican for President of the

SENATOR GIBBS'S PROMISE.

James O'Brien, politician.—Senator Gibbs is all right on the Thompson investigation. I had his promise before his election to go for these fellows who are robbing right and left, and on his telling me that he would do it I told our fellows to vote for an honest Republican rather than support a dishonest Democrat. There was where some of Gibbs's big majority came from. The only trouble I fear is that these fellows who have so much money will buy up some of the witnesses. . . One mistake you Republicans make every Presidential year in this State is to run straight local tickets for Mayor and every thing else in this city. It doesn't help your general ticket and it maker the Democrats here come together to elect their local ticket, which is about all Tammany or the County Democrats either think of. These fellows who are in possession of the departments will spend \$50,000 or \$100,000 to get you Republicans to run a straight local ticket, and a few local politicians get all

THE CROTON SUPPLY AND THE PUBLIC WORKS John Y. Culyer, Superfulendent of Parks, Brooklyn. - H the Croton dam were raised about three feet and a larger aqueduct built, I am sure that the Croton water shed would furnish, for at least ten years, more water than is sufficient for New-York's need. I have a house a few miles from Croton Lake and have often seen a large volume of water running to waste over the dam, making a small Niagara. It was pretty to look at, but expensive for a city that sometimes incks water. . . . Why do not the other New-York dallies, that pretend to be guardlans of public interests, say more about the corruption in the De partment of Public Works, recently dis TRIBUNE? I do not see how they can afford to ignore such grave charges with such good proof behind them.

HOW SHIP NEWS IS OBTAINED.

Walter O. Lewis, Superintendent of the Ship News Bureau Associated ress. -There has been a great improvement in the facilities for obtaining information about shipping for the newspapers since I took charge in 1867 At that time the Ship News Office was a little shantyo n Pier No. 1, near the old Barge Office, boarded vessels in small boats from the Ba tery and Upper Quarantine. We could not wait until vessels reached their piers, as then it would be too late for the newspapers. Soon afterward we established direct telegraph communication to Sandy Hook and Quarantine, and, although we discontinued the boarding of vessels from the Battery, we continued the small boat service at Quarantine. The inconvenience of using small boats at Quarantine and the annoyance to the Health Officer from the boatmen, led to an arrangement with Dr. Swinburne for the deputy health officers to collect the ship news at Quarantine. When Dr. Carnochan became Health Officer he declined to keep up talls plan, and we returned to the small boat service, which continued until Dr. Vanderpoel was appointed Health Officer, when we made a contract with him which is continued under the present Health Officer, Dr. Smith. The system works

A PROHIBITION PASTOR EXULTS The Rev. Stephen Merrill, Ardent Prohibitionist.-The Prohibition movement is gaining in strength every day. he vote of the party at the last election, according to the returns, was about 20,000, but I am convinced that we polled a much larger number. The people of this country are beginning to wake up to the fact that the temperature question is the most important political, social and mord question of the day. The press and the pulpit are discuss-ing it as never before. Kansas and Iowa have taken the lead in the matter, and I hope that the day is not far dis-tant when others will follow. The Prohibition party is receiving new acquisitious every day. Among the men who have recently joined the ranks are John B. Cornell and Ge. . Chaton B. Fiske.